

City of Takoma Park Neighborhood Energy Challenge

Claim Your Rebates

Control Your Energy Bills

Compete for the \$2,000 Prize

Help Takoma Park win \$5 Million!



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What is the Neighborhood Energy Challenge?

A year long competition with a \$2,000 grand prize for the neighborhood, and a \$2,000 prize for the multifamily building (12 units or more) that has the most Certified Green Homes and biggest reductions in energy use. The \$2,000 grand prizes can be used by the winning neighborhood and building for a community-enhancing project such as building new community gardens, purchasing new lidded and wheeled recycling bins, or helping neighbors in need. Plus, there are prizes, rebates, and incentives available to all participants!

Saving energy at home means a more comfortable and durable home, lower utility bills, and a healthier environment. Participating will help your neighborhood win the Takoma Park Neighborhood Energy Challenge, with a \$2,000 grand prize. And, will help the City of Takoma Park win the \$5 MILLION Georgetown University Energy Prize Competition.

What is Green Home Certified?

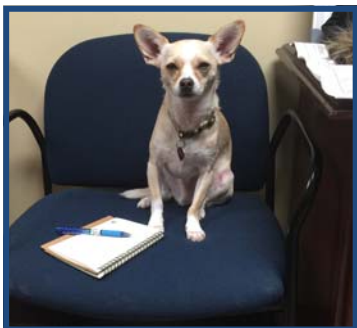
The Green Home Certification is the mechanism for earning points for your team; a way to learn more about how to save energy at home; and an opportunity for the City to recognize and reward residents who are energy efficient. Do it for the glory, do it for the prizes, do it for the energy savings, and do it for the environment!

There are three levels of Green Home Certification: Light Green, Medium Green, and Dark Green. Start with Light Green, and work your way to Dark Green. The program is voluntary, and you can do as much or as little as you want. But the darker green you go, the more points your team will earn and the more energy savings you will gain. You can start with Light Green, then apply later for Medium or Dark Green, or go right to Dark Green.

Certification themes will change each year. Residents will be able to work towards new certifications and past themes. *Futures themes may include: Zero Waste, Transportation, Backyard Habitat, and more!*

How Does Your Neighborhood Win?

1. Join your Neighborhood/Building Team online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability/neighborhood-energy-challenge
2. Get Green Home Certified.
3. Tell Your Friends and Neighbors about the Challenge
 - ⇒ Host a Neighborhood or Building Meeting with the Sustainability Manager
 - ⇒ Talk to Your Landlord and Get Them Involved
 - ⇒ Volunteer to knock on doors, help with mailings, assist with special meetings or workshops, and table at special events.



Get Started:

1. Join your Neighborhood/Building Team online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability/neighborhood-energy-challenge
2. Start working on your Green Home Certification to earn points for your neighborhood.

Substitute Actions, Do-it-yourself, and Previous Energy Upgrades

No solution is one-size-fits-all, and some substitute actions may be considered. For actions you have completed prior to this program, you may count the action as long as it remains a current best practice. To receive a waiver of a requirement or a substitution please contact the Sustainability Manager at ginam@takomaparkmd.gov

In general, substitutions due to cost will not be granted for Dark Green Certification. Light Green Certification is achievable on any budget! The Sustainability Manager will work with you to find financing and to maximize rebate opportunities to make projects feasible.

If your home has already earned a high rating or certification for being energy efficient and green, talk with the Sustainability Manager about how you can transfer that rating into one of Takoma Park's Green Home Certification levels. LEED for homes, Home Energy Score, ENERGY STAR, and others may apply.

For FREE energy coaching, help with recommendations, or questions contact:

Gina Mathias, Sustainability Manager

Email Preferred: ginam@takomaparkmd.gov

Phone: 301-891-7623



TKPK neighbors gather to discuss the energy challenge and how to help their team win.



Rebates, Incentives, and Financing!

Insulation, Air, duct sealing and appliance rebates:

Pepco: Up to \$4,300 for insulation, air sealing, heating and cooling equipment, duct sealing, and more! <http://homeenergysavings.pepco.com/home-performance-with-energy-star-program>

Heating and Cooling Equipment Rebates:

Washington Gas: \$200 for gas water heater, \$30 for programmable thermostat.

Energy Wise Rewards: Get a FREE programmable thermostat. <http://energywiserewards.pepco.com/md>

\$500 for a new EPA certified log (stick) burning stove. Stoves must emit no more than 3 grams of particulate matter per hour and be EPA certified.

\$700 for a new pellet burning stove. Pellet burning stoves can also burn corn, available through the [Takoma Park Corn Co-op!](#)

Clean Energy Grant Program: <http://energy.maryland.gov/Residential/cleanenergygrants/index.html>

\$1,000 for new Solar Photovoltaic systems sized 1 - 20 kW

\$3,000 for new Geothermal systems sized 1 - 10 tons

\$500 for new Solar Water Heating systems sized 1 - 100 sq. ft.

Financing and Loan Options:

Maryland Home Energy Loan Program: Up to \$20,000 loan with 9.99% interest rate for energy-efficiency upgrades. <http://energy.maryland.gov/mhelp/index.html>

Montgomery County: \$3,000 for a range of energy-efficiency improvements. <http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/committee-documents/kl1fWV1c20111027080242.pdf>

Maryland Energy Administration Audits: <http://energy.maryland.gov/Residential/cleanenergygrants/index.html>

Special Takoma Park Rebates:

Takoma Park: \$100 rebate for qualified Comprehensive Energy Audits;

25%, up to \$500 (after Pepco rebates are applied to invoice total) for qualified energy-efficiency improvements. <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability/energy-efficiency-rebates>



Preferred Contractor List

	ecobeco	Edge Energy	Elysian Energy	Energy G	Energy Efficiency Experts	Glenmont Heating & Air Conditioning	Live Green Homes
Contact Information							
Website	www.ecobeco.com	www.edge-gogreen.com	www.elysianenergy.com	www.enersave.com	www.energyefficiencyexperts.com	www.glenmonthvac.com	www.livegreenhome.com
Phone	240-396-2141	888-586-3343	877-456-9928	301-363-1148	202-557-9200	301-468-2665	301-652-5272
Qualifications							
Pepco Programs Qualified	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
# of Energy Auditors on Staff	22	10	20	3	3	1	1
# of Energy Audits Completed	3,000+	4,500+	4,000+	500+	900+	240+	600+
Local within 20 miles of TKPK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meets TKPK Anti-Nuclear Proliferation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meets TKPK Living Wage Requirement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Services							
Service Hours	M-F / 8-5	M-F / 9-5	M-F / 8-5	M-F / 9-5	M-F / 9-6	M-F / 7-4	M-F / 9-5
Comprehensive Home Energy Audit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full Audit Report with Photos, Estimates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HVAC Upgrades	✓	✓	partners	sub-contracts	no	✓	sub-contracts
Weatherization, Insulation, Sealing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Duct Sealing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	no

Application & Instructions:

1. Fill out your information
2. Complete a Checklist
3. Compile any needed documents
4. Scan and email, or drop off to:

Gina Mathias, Sustainability Manager

City of Takoma Park

Public Works

31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910

ginam@takomaparkmd.gov

301-891-7623



Household Primary Contact Name(s)	
Property Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Number of Adults and Children in home	____ Adults ____ Children
Green Certification Level Applying for	<input type="checkbox"/> Light Green <input type="checkbox"/> Medium Green <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Green



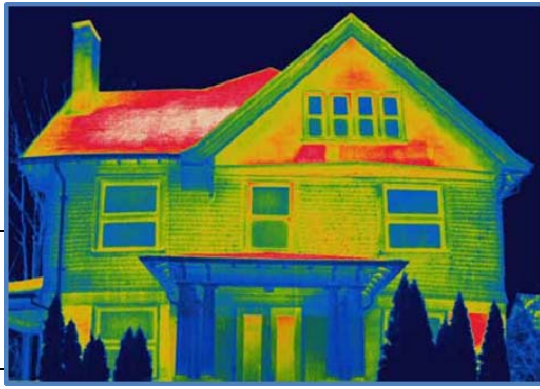
Did you know TKPK buys 100% wind generated electricity to power city buildings and streetlights?



Light Green Certification

The Light Green Home Certification requires a commitment to completing basic activities designed to get households started on going green and saving energy. To earn Light Green Certification your household must:

	Single Family home	Apartments and Renters
Complete a <u>free</u> PEPCO Quick Home Energy Checkup (including installation of recommended free improvements) -Best for apartments- -or- Get a Comprehensive Home Energy Audit as part of the PEPCO Home Performance with Energy Star Program. Visit https://homeenergysavings.pepco.com/home-performance-with-energy-star-program for more details. The TKPK Sustainability Manager can coach you through the process. Typically costs \$100. -Best for single family homes-	<input type="checkbox"/> Report Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Report Attached
Activate a free MyAccount online with Pepco (for those with internet access or smart phone).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide annual utility data via copies of your bills (account number blacked out) or a spreadsheet of one year's usage, including gas and electric.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace ALL lightbulbs in home/unit with either CFLs or LEDs (Get up to 16 free CFLs during your Pepco Quick Home Energy Check-up, and purchase discounted bulbs from Takoma Ace Hardware and other retailers).	# CFLs # LEDs	# CFLs # LEDs
Introduce yourself to three or more of your neighbors and encourage them to get Green Home Certified.	# Neighbors Reached	# Neighbors Reached
Join or start a team for the Neighborhood Energy Challenge.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Set thermostat between 66 and 70 degrees F in winter (and lower when building is unoccupied) and between 74 and 78 degrees F in summer (and higher when building is unoccupied).	Temps:	Temps:
Turn off all lighting, appliances, and electronic devices when not in use. Install power strips to make it easier.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sign up for and participate in Takoma Park's Curbside Food Waste Collection program. (may not apply to buildings with more than 12 units)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make sure furniture, curtains, rugs, and dust are not blocking air vents or registers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
On winter days, open shades on windows that allow direct sunlight to enter to help heat your	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Medium Green Certification

The Medium Green Home Certification requires a commitment to completing not just basic activities designed to save energy, but taking additional steps to maximize efficiency. To earn Medium Green Certification your household must:

	Single Family home	Apt. and Renters
All Light Green Requirements Met – please check off boxes in Light Green section.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Get a Comprehensive Home Energy Audit as part of the PEPCO Home Performance with Energy Star Program. Visit https://homeenergysavings.pepco.com/home-performance-with-energy-star-program for more details. The TKPK Sustainability Manager can coach you through the process. <i>Typically costs \$100.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Increase or verify attic insulation to R49*. Insulate and seal basement rim joists, and address major areas of concern identified in your Comprehensive Home Energy Audit Report.	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Tighten the building envelope to seal air gaps in the attic, basement, living spaces, and around doors and windows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Block window and door drafts by using draft stoppers, heavy curtains, and window film. Ask your landlord to caulk around drafty windows and doors, or ask if you can DIY.	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace or install faucet aerators with a target flow rate of 0.5 gallon per minute on all lavatory faucets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Set refrigerator temperatures between 35 and 38 degrees F and freezer temperatures between 0 - 5 degrees F. FR Temp: FZ Temp:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Care for your trees. Trees can reduce your energy use! Ensure proper watering, trimming, disease prevention, pest removal, and protection from damage to roots, branches, and trunk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Use natural ventilation instead of air conditioning when possible (e.g., open windows at opposite ends of space and turn off cooling system to facilitate cross breezes).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only run full loads in the dishwasher or washing machine.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash clothes on the COLD cycle. <i>New detergents work equally well with cold water.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air dry your clothes instead of using the dryer as frequently as possible. A collapsible rack is a great option for apartments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regularly check for and repair all water leaks in your home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean your refrigerator coils every 6 months. <i>TIP: Set a calendar reminder.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace your furnace filter every 3 months and Service your heating and cooling system annually. <i>*TIP: Buy 4 at a time, and set a calendar reminder so you don't forget!</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Dark Green Certification

The Dark Green Home Certification requires a deep commitment to going above ordinary measures to save energy and make environmentally friendly choices at home. To earn Dark Green Certification your household must:

	Single Family Homes	Multi-Family & Rental Homes
All Light Green and Medium Green Requirements Met – please check off boxes in Light Green and Medium Greens sections.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
If replacing or upgrading windows and doors, install ENERGY STAR models. Install storm windows or window inserts on old windows if not replacing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Purchase clean, renewable energy through a competitive supplier. Refer to the Sustainability Manager for a current list of suppliers in Maryland. You can purchase offsets if your utilities are included in your rent.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sign up for Pepco's Energy Wise Rewards program (you may need landlord permission).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help enroll your building in a pilot project for Takoma Park's Curbside Food Waste Collection Program.	Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver energy-saving information packets to your landlord, encouraging them to make energy efficiency improvements through Pepco's Small Business program - which offers rebates and incentives. The Sustainability Manager can help you.	Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shade sun-exposed windows and walls by planting shade trees and shrubbery, using awnings and sunscreens, or applying window film or other treatments to reduce solar heat gain (especially on south and west facing single-pane windows).	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Install and use ceiling fans for air circulation. If you rent, use oscillating or box fans. Turn them off when not in the room, fans cool YOU, not the air.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insulate all accessible hot water pipes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Install motion detectors on outdoor lighting. Renters—only if applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Host a team meeting in your unit or a community room, and have a City of Takoma Park sustainability employee join.	Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install low-flow showerheads, 1.5 gallons per minute (gpm).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dark Green Certification Continued

Place cable box, modem, and wireless routers on a timer switch or power strip, to turn off while at work and while sleeping.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace high use non-ENERGY STAR electronics older than 10 years (television, dehumidifier, etc.) with new ENERGY STAR models.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Update outdated HVAC equipment to ENERGY STAR Certified options.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Replace (or ask management to replace) refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, water heaters, washing machines, and dryers purchased before 2000 with new ENERGY STAR labeled models.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace , retrofit or ask management to upgrade lighting to LEDs in and around your home or building. Payback is typically less than a year, and Pepco offers rebates in most situations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install on-site renewable energy systems such as photovoltaic, solar water heating, geothermal, or pellet (or corn) stove heating. If you cannot install renewable energy, consult with the Sustainability Manager for a suitable alternative for your home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable
Install (or verify) programmable thermostats, and program them for occupied and unoccupied times. Renters, ask your landlord, you can even get free a programmable thermostat from Pepco's Energy Wise Rewards program or a \$30 rebate from Washington Gas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Energy-Saving Actions

To join your neighborhood team go to <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability/neighborhood-energy-challenge>

